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exercise of this power, we solemnly protest—a protest the more necessary because your votes in its support are entered on your journals—not so the letter of Sir Francis Burdett to your Speaker, denying you such jurisdiction.

In the early part of this reign, in the case of Mr. Wilkes, the rights of this country and of the nation were repeatedly and grossly violated by the house of commons. At length the law triumphed. After a struggle of nearly twenty years the house abandoned the pretensions they had arrogated, and “expunged” from their journals “all their declarations, orders and resolutions, as being subversive of the rights of the whole body of electors of this kingdom.

You have during your pleasure deprived the citizens of Westminster of their share in the representation, and the public at large of the exertions of a faithful servant, in whose ability, firmness, and integrity, they pre-eminently confide.

We view with jealousy and suspicion the shutting up Sir Francis Burdett in prison, when the attention of the nation is directed with anxiety to his intended motion for a reform in the representation of the people in your honourable house—that house, in which the traffic in seats has been avowed in the case of Mr. Perceval and Lord Castlereagh, “to be as notorious as the sun at noon day;” a practice “at the mention of which,” in the emphatic language of your Speaker, “our ancestors would have startled with indignation.”

“We therefore pray you to follow the example of your predecessors, to “expunge all your declarations, orders, and resolutions on the subject, as tending to the subversion of our liberties,” and to the introduction of a military despotism, and to recall Sir Francis Burdett to the service of the country in Parliament, that he may there enforce that plan of reform which last session he so powerfully recommended, and which in our opinion is absolutely necessary for the stability and honour of the throne and the safety and well being of the people.”

Signed in the name and in the behalf of this meeting by, &c.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE LIVERY OF LONDON.
SMITH, MAYOR.

In a meeting or assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen and Liverymen of the several companies of the city of London, in Common Hall, assembled, at the Guildhall of the said city, on Friday, the 4th day of May, 1810.

1. Resolved... That the Livery of London, impressed with the deepest sentiments of alarm, regret, and indignation, at the

late extraordinary and unconstitutional proceedings of the House of Commons, which by the arrest and imprisonment of two of their fellow subjects, have, as they conceive, superseded the laws of the land, and set up in their stead, under the claim of privilege, an undefined, capricious, and arbitrary power, feel themselves irresistibly called upon to express, at a crisis so new, so arduous, and so fatal to their rights and liberties, their unqualified reprobation of measures equally subversive of the first principles of the constitution, derogatory to the real interests and dignity of the House of Commons, and injurious to the honour, glory and happiness of the Sovereign and the People of these realms.

2. Resolved... That it appears to us, that the Commons House of Parliament in committing to prison Mr. John Gale Jones, and in breaking open the house of, and also in committing to prison one of their members, Sir Francis Burdett, bart. for alleged libels upon themselves, offences which, if established were provided against by the laws of the country, have been at once accusers, legislators, judges, jurors, and executioners in their own cause, sheltering themselves under the pretence of privilege and exercising a partial and summary jurisdiction, without redress or appeal.

3. Resolved... That the whole system of British jurisprudence, has been thus shaken to its foundation, and a discretionary power assumed over the liberties of the People, as declared and established by the great charter, repeated and confirmed by the petition of Right and the Bill of Right and recognized, enforced, and illustrated by a multiplicity of statutes.

4. Resolved... That it has been idly and vainly enacted and re-enacted, “That no Freeman may be taken or imprisoned, or to be disseized of his freehold or liberties, or of his free customs, or to be outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, but by the lawful judgment of his Peers, or by the law of the land;” if the House of Commons, which is itself but a single branch of the legislature do, to use the language of the Bill of Rights, against the detestable tyranny, of James II. “by assuming and exercising a power of dispensing with and suspending of laws and the executing of laws without the consent of parliament,” set itself above parliament, making itself greater than the whole, of which it is but a part, dispensing with the laws which gave to all a remedy against commitments by the King himself, and thus erecting itself into a new and monstrous executive, the

more dangerous to the lives, liberties, and fortunes of the Subject, inasmuch as it claims for its rule of action, its own discretion, will or caprice.

5. Resolved...That the true privilege of parliament, meaning nothing more than a protective right, was really designed as an immunity and safeguard, to be wielded as a shield against the encroachments, usurpations and tyranny of the crown; not to be converted into an active power of violating the rights of others, into an instrument of arrogance, and a sword of destruction against the people.

6. Resolved...That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to that illustrious patriot Sir Francis Burdett, for his upright and independent conduct in Parliament; for his truly constitutional and irresistible argument, disproving the power of the House of Commons to imprison the people of England; and for his legal and manly resistance to the Speaker's warrant, whereby he has given a practical illustration of its inefficiency, and demonstrated that, as there is no legal power without the legal means of execution, it could not be carried into effect without the aid of a standing army, a violation of the ancient laws and rights of Englishmen, and which, in this instance, was so lamentably exemplified in the breaking open of his castle, and so fatally preceded and followed by the murder of peaceable and unoffending Citizens.

7. Resolved...That this Resolution be communicated to Sir Francis Burdett, by the Sheriffs and a deputation of the Livery, who are desired, at the same time, to assure him, that, however grateful his release from arbitrary confinement would prove to the citizens of London, his liberation would be no jubilee to the British people, unless obtained by the triumph of those grand principles which in his person have been so shamefully and flagrantly violated.

8. Resolved...that this meeting would become accomplices in the ruin of their constitution and country, were they to decline stating what appears to them to be the fact, that the House of Commons has repeatedly rejected just and necessary inquiry, screened public delinquents and punitors from punishment, encouraged the scandalous traffic of Seats in their own House, a traffic, "at the mention of which their ancestors would have started with indignation,"—sanctioned the most profligate waste of the public money, and approved and justified an Expedition, the most numerous, formidable and expensive that ever left the shores of England; but the

most degraded, disgraced and ruinous that ever returned, alike destructive of the genuine energies of the empire, and holding out to the contempt and ridicule of the enemy the folly and imbecility of corrupt and wicked ministers.

9. Resolved...That under all these evils and calamities, these accumulated and accumulating grievances, it appears to this meeting that the only means left to save the constitution and the country from impending ruin, is a reform in the representation of the people in the Commons House of Parliament, which to be efficient, must be speedy and radical.

10. Resolved...That the people of the United Kingdom are hereby entreated to co-operate by Petition, Remonstrance, and all constitutional means, in the attainment of this salutary and indispensable object.

11. Resolved...That a petition, founded on these resolutions, be presented to the honourable the House of Commons.

12. Resolved...That the petition now read be fairly transcribed, and signed by two aldermen and twelve liverymen, and presented to the honourable the House of Commons by H. C. Combe esq. Sir W. Curtis, Sir C. Price, and Sir J. Shaw, bart.; and they are hereby instructed, as Representatives of this city, to support the same.

13. Resolved unanimously...That the thanks of this Hall be given to alderman Combe, one of the representatives of this city, for the discharge of his duties, and for his constitutional conduct in parliament.

14. Resolved unanimously...That the thanks of this Hall be given to the right honourable the Lord Mayor, for his impartial conduct this day, and for his upright and honourable conduct as chief magistrate, and his constitutional endeavours to preserve the peace of the city, without aid of the military.

15. Resolved unanimously...That the thanks of this Hall be given to the Sheriffs, for their constitutional endeavours to preserve the peace of the city without the aid of the military.

WOODTHORPE

THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE
PETITION:

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble address, remonstrance, and petition of the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London, in common Hall assembled, this 4th day of May, 1810.

We, the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London, in common